

**Dr. Peterson**

**Bill Schafer Farewell Reception**

4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, Student Center, Peachtree Room

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate Bill Schafer and his contributions at Georgia Tech over the past 11 years.

*(Possibly introduce his family and other special guests.)*

Bill came to Georgia Tech from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2004. As vice president for Student Affairs and a member of the Cabinet at Georgia Tech, he has provided leadership for just about every program on campus that is related to students.

When I came to Georgia Tech in 2009, one of the first things I did was to bring together the campus to create our 25-year strategic plan, Designing the Future. Bill was very engaged in that effort, and then provided leadership for the strategic planning process for the Division of Student Affairs.

As a follow-up to the Institute's strategic plan, Bill partnered with the vice provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the Dean of Engineering and Housing in the development of new programs in Student Leadership. These programs are already making a difference in the lives of our students. Some examples are a minor in Leadership Studies, a student leadership coaching program, or Leading Edge, and the Leadership Grand Challenges Residential Living-Learning Community, which has become a model for future living-learning communities at Tech. The first 3 years shows a 100% retention rate and higher GPA with the first cohorts.

In the past decade Georgia Tech has expanded its global focus. Bill developed student affairs programs at Georgia Tech locations throughout the world, including China and France.

He is known for collaboration. Working with Dr. Toti Perez and the Counseling Center staff, Bill successfully facilitated the five-year internal and external review process so that the Counseling Center could receive APA accreditation.

He had a leadership role in the review of alcohol education programs and mental health services, which has led to more focused educational programs. In collaboration with the parent program director, the Office of Development and the Dean of Students staff, an enhanced parent and family program has grown steadily over the past 7 years.

In collaboration with the Student Affairs staff, he led the development and implementation of a multicultural competency plan for the Division of Student Affairs.

His leadership extends beyond our campus. Bill has served on and chaired a number of University System of Georgia committees, including chairing the Regents' Committee on Learning Disorders for the last 6 years. This committee makes recommendations to the system office for the 10,000 students with learning disorders who are registered in 31 colleges and universities.

Bill has chaired a 7-year effort to create a flexible doctoral program in student affairs leadership at UGA so that Tech's student affairs staff, as well as those working around the state, can pursue their dream of receiving a doctoral degree while continuing their current roles.

Bill is a respected national leader on student issues. He has been active in the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, or APLU, and has served on numerous search committees.

During his time at Georgia Tech, he has been well respected and liked by students. In fact, he received the Most Outstanding Staff Award and Friend of the Greek Award during his time here.

I, like Bill, feel that the most rewarding part of my job is getting to know students. Bill took advantage of numerous opportunities to be with students.

In preparing for today's talk, we asked him about some of his favorite Georgia Tech memories. One that he lists is a 3-day backpacking trip with our students on the Great Wall of China that was designed in collaboration with ORGT and our GT Summer Program in Tienjin, China. It included vigorous hiking, camping on a Chinese farm, and enjoying Chinese food.

Over the past decade, Bill could be found interacting with students at homecoming including watching the mini 500, fireworks, Reck Parade, Alumni tailgate, and the football game.

He loves athletics, and attended the final 4 in San Antonio and the Orange Bowl victory in Florida. He has fond memories of 11 bowl games, as well as major basketball victories over Duke, North Carolina, and Wake Forest at home.

Bill, while we will miss you, we are excited for you as you begin this next chapter in your career as vice president of Student Life at West Virginia University. Thank you for your engagement, enthusiasm, and your leadership role at Georgia Tech, and in higher education.

Now I would like to invite Dillon Roseen, Undergraduate Student SGA president, to speak, and then we'll ask Bill to say a few words.